



## INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS AND GUESTS

January 2010.

The newsletter has been noticeable by its absence over the past few months and for that we can only apologise and plead work overload and other commitments. So in this issue we will try and cover new developments and any changes of general interest.

### GENERAL

**Board Members** – A belated welcome to Ian Hobson who was elected to the Board last AGM.

Michael Wales did not stand for re-election so we still have six Board Members all actively contributing to the role. What we still do not have is someone with financial qualifications or skills sufficient to take on the Treasurer's role and this we do need. Isn't there anybody out there who can help out with this role?

### MATTERS GOLF

**No Shows** – there has been a disappointing increase in players not turning up for booked tee times and the Board has decided to impose a fine of \$15 every time this happens. No excuse is acceptable and no play in any competition will be permitted until the fine has been paid.

**Thursday Comp.** – support for the Thursday competition has been slow and we have decided to reduce the age qualification to 50 years to fall in line with the Club's veteran status. In addition we will add a two ball NTP comp on the 9<sup>th</sup> hole and make the first tee available exclusively for the comp players from 7.30am – 8.30am. After that time the comp players may have to share the first tee with social players.

The present fee of \$12 will remain for the Thursday comp and the new format will start on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February.

**Drinks cart** – the drinks cart on Saturday's has been well received and will continue until at least the end of February while we can find someone to drive it who knows the golf course and has their RSA certificate. Presently Phil and Mitch are the only two we have who meet those conditions so if they are unavailable for any reason we cannot do it. Anyone qualified who is willing to do a shift should let Katrina or John Vincent know.

**Greens** – Andrew and his staff continue to do a superb job with the course in general and the greens in particular. Members might know that we purchased two pre-loved greens mowers a couple of months ago and we are now reaping the benefits.

**Practice Nets** – we know the practice nets are in need of attention and new mats have been ordered and will be installed shortly.

**Fairway watering** – with a view to the longer term, we have taken delivery of two brand-new high volume water pumps capable of watering the whole of our golf course area. The opportunity to acquire these major cost components of a fairway watering system at a very good price was thought to be too good to pass up. We are now seeking to obtain a detailed plan and costing of how such a system could be implemented and although that doesn't mean that work is imminent, it does mean we are looking at ways to continue improvement of our facilities.

**Petrol Powered carts** – the Board has considered a number of requests to waive the present policy prohibiting the introduction of petrol powered carts but has confirmed that the policy will remain. Members need to be aware that only electric carts are permitted on the course if they are considering the purchase of their own cart.



**Pennants** – the pennant season is almost upon us and a notice for each Grade is on the main Notice Board. If you wish to be considered for selection by the Match Committee make sure you put your name on the list as soon as possible.

## HOUSE HAPPENINGS

**Bistro** – Emily has left us for greener pastures after a two year stay. She leaves with our blessing and thanks for a job well done and we wish her well for the future.

Nathan has taken over the Bistro and will give us an entirely different choice of menu with Asian flavours his speciality. The usual eat 'n keep movin' type food will still be available together with some choice entrée and nibbly options for après golf.

Please make Nathan welcome and make yourself known to him by ordering and giving him your full support.

**Bar Staff** – we have a few new faces behind the bar mostly because we needed to increase our staff numbers to cover temporary absences and also give the staff some regular shifts. We expect Isa to be back on deck in March after an unfortunate accident in December.

**Bar prices** – the bad news is that there will be an increase in the bar prices from 1<sup>st</sup> March following the 6 monthly automatic increase in government excise tax on 1<sup>st</sup> February. We can't absorb these increases but the good news is that the member's card discount will remain in place, but remember you will not get the discount unless you produce your member card.

**Poker** – the Tuesday poker game has been discontinued. Despite an eight month trial and early promising signs, the interest had leveled off and support insufficient to cover costs and justify it continuing.

## TRADING/FINANCE REPORT

We are still struggling to trade profitably and at the half-way mark of the year indications are that we are heading for a loss fairly close to budget and not too dissimilar to last year. There are some small signs of improvement and some new initiatives we will introduce for the second half of the year will hopefully help.

The bar is doing little more than break even and sales are well down on the same stage last year. Catering results have improved remarkably and with a different arrangement with our new caterer we will further limit the bleeding in that area.

The golfing side is still performing reasonably well with increased revenue off-set by increases in costs to give us a slight loss in that area as well. Gaming machine revenue continues to increase and we are doing better in that area than we have for the past two years. The outside gaming area has been popular and is contributing to that success.

**Social Players Drink Vouchers** - shortly we will introduce a new system for social players who will receive a free drink at the bar on production of the receipt for payment of green fees in an attempt to encourage visitors to use the club house facilities. We need to make some changes to the software and install a new cash register in the Pro Shop and expect that system will commence in February.

**Membership Fees** – Members will be offered some different options this year when renewing their membership. A fee structure including a significant reduction in fees with some conditions attached requiring a minimum spend in the club house will be available. The choice of how you renew your membership will be available to all members. More detail on that issue next month.

A one-off joining fee of \$75 has been introduced for new members. Any member who allows their membership to lapse must complete a new application form and also pay the joining fee.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS